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*Mr. Wayne Molstad
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Dear Sir,

Please find attached "Questionnaire concerning declaration of Poland as swine vesicular disease free country" and "Additional information concerning epizootical status of Poland in relation to classical swine fever in wild boars".

Yours sincerely,

CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER

MVD PhD Piotr Kołodziej

QUESTIONNAIRE
CONCERNING DECLARATION OF POLAND
AS A SWINE VESICULAR DISEASE-FREE COUNTRY

1. Competent authorities, structure and infrastructure of veterinary services in the region.

- prevention and control of animal infectious diseases in Poland are tasks of Veterinary Inspection subordinate to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Veterinary Inspection is managed by the Chief Veterinary Officer assisted by the General Veterinary Inspectorate. The Chief Veterinary Officer is the central body of state administration.

Veterinary Inspection comprises the Chief Veterinary Inspectorate and 16 province, 314 district and 27 border veterinary inspectorates, as well as 16 regional veterinary laboratories and 24 branches of thereof.

The tasks entrusted to Veterinary Inspection are carried out by the following bodies:

- 1) Chief Veterinary Officer,
 - 2) province veterinary officer as a head of the provincial veterinary inspection -member of joint state administration,
 - 3) district veterinary officer as a head of the district veterinary inspection;
 - 4) border veterinary officer.
- positions within the Veterinary Inspection may be occupied only by veterinary surgeons with a valid right to practice their profession.
Veterinary Inspection currently employs 4,722 persons, including 2,097 veterinary surgeons, 398 employees with a degree in a field other than veterinary medicine, 102 veterinary technicians, 431 veterinary laboratory assistants, 57 sanitary and veterinary inspectors, and 1,628 other employees.
Employment of veterinary surgeons at subsequent levels is as follows: General Veterinary Inspectorate – 47, province veterinary inspectorates – 620, regional veterinary laboratories – 771, their branches – 366, border veterinary inspectorates – 183, district veterinary inspectorates - 2,411, other units – 324;
 - diagnostic procedures and techniques used in relation to the particular notifiable animal infectious diseases are determined in diagnostic manuals (instructions) for the particular disease;
 - legal acts regulating issues connected with swine vesicular disease in Poland:
 - 1) Act of 24 April 1997 on the control of animal infectious diseases, examination of animals for slaughter and meat and Veterinary Inspection (*Dziennik Ustaw* [Dz.U. - Journal of Laws] of 1999, No. 66, It. 752 as amended);
 - 2) Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 4 April 2003 on the determination of disease entities, control measures, scope of tests and principles of their financing (*Dz. U.* No. 62, It. 571);
 - 3) Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 27 February 2003 on the introduction of a ban on preventive animal vaccinations against certain infectious diseases; in Poland a ban on preventive vaccinations against swine vesicular disease is in force.

- 4) Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 22 January 2003 on measures to be taken during eradication of animal infectious diseases (*Dz. U.* No. 18, It. 163).

Additionally, under Art. 9, Clause 9 of the Veterinary Act, it is forbidden to feed pigs with kitchen waste in Poland.

- animals and foodstuffs of animal origin imported to Poland undergo border veterinary control. According to the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 21 December 2002 on border inspection posts on which border veterinary control takes place (*Dz. U.* No. 237, It. 2016), border inspection posts on which border veterinary control takes place and through which the particular animal species and foodstuffs of animal origin may be imported to Poland have been determined.

2. National status concerning the prevalence of swine vesicular disease.

- for each significant risk, pathogen is identified;
- the last case of swine vesicular disease was recorded in Poland in 1972;
- swine vesicular disease is a disease subject to compulsory notification and control under the Act of 24 April 1997 on the control of animal infectious diseases, examination of animals for slaughter and meat and Veterinary Inspection (*Dz. U.* of 1999, No. 66, It. 752);
- in 1972 herds were destroyed to eradicate the disease in Poland.

3. Pathogen status of neighbouring regions.

In countries neighbouring with Poland no cases of swine vesicular disease have been recorded in recent years.

4. Scope of active disease control programme, information on the prevalence of the pathogen in the region.

- under the Act of 24 April 1997 on the control of animal infectious diseases, examination of animals for slaughter and meat and Veterinary Inspection (*Dz. U.* of 1999, No. 66, It. 752), hereinafter referred to as Veterinary Act, swine vesicular disease is a disease subject to compulsory notification and control (as specified in Annex No. 1 to the Act); therefore, every suspected case of swine vesicular disease must be immediately reported to the territorially competent authority of Veterinary Inspection, local government or the nearest animal clinic. Since 1972 no case of the disease has been recorded in Poland.

1. The reporting of the disease is based on Art. 19 of the *Act of 24 April 1997 on the control of animal infectious diseases, examination of animals for slaughter and meat and Veterinary Inspection* (*Dz.U.99.66.752*, *Dz.U.01.29.320*, *Dz.U.01.129.1438*), which provides that “in the case of suspicion of the occurrence of an infectious disease, referred to in Annex 1 to the veterinary act, in an animal its owner shall be obliged to:

- 1) **forthwith** notify the competent territorially assigned body of the Veterinary Inspection or the chief of commune (mayor) or the nearest veterinary treatment facility for animals,

- 2) retain the animals in the place of their permanent stay and not introduce other animals there,
- 3) hinder for outsiders to have access to the facilities or places where there are animals suspected of being infected or animal carcasses,
- 4) stop the removal, disposal of and selling of meat, foodstuffs of animal origin, non-edible animal raw materials, animal carcasses, feeding stuffs, bedding material and other objects to be found at the place of the disease occurrence,
- 5) make animals and animal carcasses available to veterinary examination and treatment as well as provide assistance during such examination and treatment,
- 6) provide the bodies of the Veterinary Inspection and people acting on behalf of these bodies with explanations and information which might be relevant for the disease detection and sources of infection or prevention from spreading thereof.

The above obligation also applies to persons having contact with animals in connection with their official or professional duties. Additionally, veterinary surgeons are obligated to inform the owner of the animal about obligations determined in Clause 1 and supervise their fulfilment until the arrival of district veterinary officer or a person authorised by him/her.

- in order to identify the source of infection the district veterinary officer shall cover the holding suspected of the disease with official control, perform epizootic enquiry and review holdings keeping pigs in the radius of 10 km from the holding suspected,
- if swine vesicular disease is suspected, district veterinary officer shall order that the animals suspected of the disease be kept in isolation and shall issue a ban on the taking out and bringing in animals from/to the holding until laboratory results are obtained; the diseased animals shall be destroyed;
- under Chapter 4 ("Control of Swine Vesicular Disease") of the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 22 January 2003 on measures to be taken during eradication of animal infectious diseases (*O.J. No. 18, It. 163*):

§15. District veterinary officer shall:

- 1) clinically examine all animals which, as a result of epizootic investigation, have been recognised as suspected of swine vesicular disease infection;
- 2) immediately notify the relevant district veterinary officer if the animals suspected of swine vesicular disease have been transported to another district.

§16. District veterinary officer shall confirm that an outbreak of swine vesicular disease ended if:

- 1) all susceptible animals within the outbreak site have died or been killed and their carcasses have been disposed in such a way to prevent the spread of disease or if no new case or suspicion of the disease was recorded among the other animals within 28 days of the day on which the last diseased animal recovered or the last animal was cleared of suspicions of the disease;
- 2) cleaning and disinfecting appropriate for the disease have been performed as specified in Annex No. 6 to the regulation.

§ 17.

1. The introduction of susceptible to swine vesicular disease pigs to the outbreak site recognised as disease-free may take place 21 days after the outbreak site has been recognised as disease-free under approval of district veterinary officer.
2. Pigs introduced must originate from swine vesicular disease free regions and obtain negative results of serological tests for swine vesicular disease.
3. A limited number of pigs shall be introduced to the holdings in which pigs are reared in open facilities or in the open, locating them throughout the holding. Pigs shall be clinically and serologically tested 28 days after introduction to such a holding. If negative result is obtained, full restocking may take place.
4. Full re-stocking in holdings in which pigs are reared in a way other than that specified in Clause 3 may take place if:
 - pigs are reintroduced within 8 days;
 - none of the pigs is removed from the holding for 60 days of the day on which the last animal has been introduced;
 - herd shall be clinically and serologically tested for swine vesicular disease 28 days after the introduction of the last animal to the holding.

§ 18.1. The country or its part may be recognised as swine vesicular disease free if:

- 1) at least 24 months have lapsed since the last outbreak site was recognised as disease-free, and if all the animals within the outbreak site were killed, or at least 9 months have passed since the last outbreak site was recognised as disease-free,
 - 2) vaccinations against swine vesicular disease were not performed for at least 24 months,
 - 3) regular laboratory check tests are carried out to confirm that the swine vesicular disease virus is not present in a given area,
 - 4) pigs, wild boars and products originate from thereof are imported only from swine vesicular disease-free countries (regions), under conditions specified within Items 1-3, or the imported products are effectively sterilised in a way to ensure the destruction of SVD virus.
2. Chief Veterinary Officer shall recognise the region as swine vesicular disease free on the basis of an application submitted by province veterinary officer.
- if it is suspected that swine vesicular disease is present in a given holding, district veterinary officer shall cover the holding with official surveillance, impose appropriate restrictions in keeping with Art. 19 of the veterinary act and collect samples for laboratory testing;
 - if swine vesicular disease is suspected or confirmed, cleaning and disinfection must take place in keeping with Chapter II ("Details"), Item 3 ("Cleaning and Disinfection for Swine Vesicular Disease") of the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 22 January 2003 on measures to be taken during eradication of animal infectious diseases (*Dz.U.* No. 18, Item. 163), i.e.:
 - 1) before the entry gate and each entry leading to the holding in which swine vesicular disease is suspected as well as within

swine vesicular disease outbreak and before every entry to the facilities with animals susceptible to swine vesicular disease mats saturated with 2% caustic soda solution should be placed, and water, soap and 0.2% citric acid solution or 1% caustic soda solution for the cleaning and disinfection of hands, non-covered body parts and clothing, and 2% aqueous caustic soda solution for the disinfection of footwear should be prepared;

- 2) persons who had contact with animals swine vesicular disease infected with or are suspected of being infected with the disease, and equipment used for the servicing of the animals are obliged to clean and disinfect their hands, clothing and footwear using agents specified in Item 1 before leaving the place in which the animals stay or the holding;
- 3) vehicles, equipment and other objects, which had contact with the diseased animals or the animals suspected of swine vesicular disease and remained in the contaminated environment (swine vesicular disease outbreak), shall be cleaned and disinfected with the help of agents specified in item 1 before leaving the holding;
- 4) within the holding in which swine vesicular disease is suspected and in the swine vesicular disease outbreak site preliminary disinfection with appropriate caustic soda solution shall be carried out once or twice a day;
- 5) after the destruction and removal of animals and animal carcasses from the swine vesicular disease outbreak site, places in which the animals are kept shall be cleaned – before cleaning, 2% caustic soda solution shall be poured on the places in which the animals are kept, were slaughtered and underwent post-mortem examination;
- 6) solid and liquid manure shall be biologically disinfected - solid manure shall be kept in a stack for at least 42 days; fermented and unfermented liquid manure shall be left for at least 45 days after being mixed with a 2% caustic soda solution (100 l of the solution per 1,000 l fermented or unfermented liquid manure) and obtaining pH of more than 12.5 or with formalin (5 l formalin per 1,000 l of fermented or unfermented liquid manure), protected (also against access by people or animals), and left for at least 45 days;
- 7) cleaning and disinfecting after the removal of animals from the swine vesicular disease outbreak site shall be carried out three times (with 7-week breaks); when carried out for the third time and checked by district veterinary officer, cleaning and disinfection shall be considered final before the recognition as a swine vesicular disease -free area.

The following disinfectants shall be used whenever swine vesicular disease is suspected or confirmed:

- a) caustic soda in solutions specified above; if ambient temperature is lower than 10⁰C, 3% solution instead of 2% solution shall be used after being heated to 70-80⁰C,

- b) 2% chloramine solution with 0.1-0.2% of nitric acid, prepared immediately prior to use,
 - c) 5% formalin solution; if ambient temperature is lower than 10°C, 10% solution shall be used after being heated to 50°C,
 - d) 5% Pollena JK solution, which may be used in the presence of animals if solution amounts to 3%,
 - e) 2% chlorinated lime solution.
- a National Contingency Plan for Control of Swine Vesicular Disease (SVD), which contains principles of measures which should be taken in case of SVD occurrence;
 - when swine vesicular disease is suspected, district veterinary officer shall issue an administrative ban on rearing practices until the official exclusion of the disease; when the disease is confirmed animals and biological material shall be destroyed;
 - when swine vesicular disease is confirmed, all pigs in the holding shall be destroyed; their carcasses shall be disposed of and incinerate in the SRM rendering plant,
 - under Art. 25 of veterinary act, compensation for pigs kept on pig farms, which were killed following an order of Veterinary Inspection bodies shall be available from state budget in the amount equal to the market value of the animal;
 - after destroying animals within the contaminated holdings and disinfection of thereof no outbreaks of the disease were rediscovered in the holdings.

5. Region status in relation to vaccinations.

Vaccinations against swine vesicular disease have never been performed in Poland. Since 1998, under the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 10 February 1998 and of 27 February 2003 on the introduction of a ban on preventive vaccinations of animals against certain infectious diseases, preventive vaccinations against swine vesicular disease are banned in Poland.

6. Scope in which the region is separated from neighbouring regions with increased risk degree by natural and other barriers.

The border with the Federal Republic of Germany goes along the Odra and Nysa Łużycka rivers, which are natural barriers preventing the transmission of the virus to Poland. Additionally, the border with the Republic of Slovakia and the Czech Republic goes along the Sudetic and Carpathian mountain range, which to some extent constitutes a barrier against natural transmission of the swine vesicular disease virus to Poland. Also, since 1985 no case of the disease has been recorded in any country neighbouring with Poland.

7. Scope in which movement of animals and products of animal origin is controlled in increased risk regions, as well as biosecurity level connected with such movement.

Under Art. 10a, It. 1 and 3 of the veterinary act "It is prohibited to:

- 1) import or transit diseased animals, animals suspected of the disease, products, raw materials and waste originating from thereof as well as high and specified risk materials, and 3) import or transit objects in relation to which it is suspected that they may spread the disease, with the exception of cultures of pathogenic material for scientific research.

After being notified by foreign veterinary services of an outbreak of the disease in the country in question, the Chief Veterinary Officer shall immediately inform about the fact the province veterinary officers and, through them, border veterinary officers, who shall immediately implement the procedure banning the import of goods which may pose epizootic risk;

- under Art. 14, Clause 11, Item 2 of the act in question, "Border veterinary officer shall issue a decision banning the import or transit of goods or ordering that animals be killed, slaughtered or undergo sanitary slaughter, or that products and other objects be destroyed if control shows that:

1) the goods do not meet conditions specified in Art. 11 and 12,

2) provisions of Art. 10a have been violated,

- if the import of live animals from a given country is not banned due to the presence of a infectious disease to which the imported animals are susceptible in that country, the imported animals shall be quarantined for 26 days in the place determined within a decision issued by district veterinary officer territorially competent for the place of their stay in Poland. District veterinary officer shall supervise the quarantine of the imported animals;
- under Art. 11 Clause 1 of the act in question: "Animals may be imported if:

- 1) they are accompanied by an original copy of health certificate drawn up in at least two languages (Polish and the language of the country of their origin or Polish and English), issued by the competent authority of the country of origin, and other documents accompanying the consignment,
- 2) on the date on which the certificate was issued the country of their origin or its parts were entered in the register kept by the Chief Veterinary Officer,
- 3) they are marked in a way facilitating their identification,
- 4) person interested in the cargo informs the border veterinary officer from the appropriate border inspection point through which the animals are going to pass, in writing or through electronic media, about the anticipated time of their arrival, their species and number at least one working day in advance,
- 5) the importer obtains a decision of the appropriate district veterinary officer concerning the determination of the animal quarantine or slaughter place.

For the import of pigs to Poland, individual permit from the Chief Veterinary Officer is required.

8. The distribution of animals and procedures used in the trading places in the region.

- the numbers of animals of the particular species in Poland as well as their distribution all over Poland (by provinces) are specified in Enclosure No. 2 to the questionnaire (data from the Central Office of Statistics for June 2001);
- there are no separate animal trading centres in Poland. Under Art. 5, Clause 1, Item 1 of the veterinary act, entities starting or carrying out payable activity in the scope of animal transport, purchase and sale are obligated to report to the district veterinary officer their intention to start such activity at least 30 days before its commencement and to discontinue the activity within 7 days of its actual discontinuation. Additionally, under Art. 5, Clause 2 of the act in question, entities referred to in Clause 1 are obligated to notify the appropriate district veterinary officer about the time and place of fairs, round-ups and exhibitions as well as loading and unloading of animals.

Veterinary conditions that must be to be satisfied for payable transport of animals as well as their purchase and sale are regulated by the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 11 April 2003 on detailed veterinary conditions required being satisfied for payable transport, purchase and sale of animals (*Dz.U.* No. 66, It. 618), and regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 29 October 2002 on detailed veterinary conditions required to be satisfied for the organisation and establishment of fairs, round-ups and exhibitions of animals (*Dz.U.* No. 192, It. 1609).

- every pig introduced to the market in Poland must be ear-tagged or tattooed and accompanied by a valid health certificate issued by the district veterinary officer or a veterinary surgeon authorised by him/her, as provided in Art. 7 Clause 1 and 14 of the veterinary act.

Transport of animals is regulated by the provisions contained in the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 11 April 2003 concerning detailed veterinary requirements to be satisfied for payable transport of animals, their purchase and sale (*Dz.U.* No. 66, It. 618) and the Minister of Transport and Maritime Economy of 30 June 1998 on detailed terms and conditions for transport of animals (*Dz.U.* No. 86, It. 552). The handling of animals during transport and trade transactions must be consistent with the animal protection act of 21 August 1997 (*Dz.U.* No. 111, It. 724 with later amendments).

9. Type and scope of disease control in the region, e.g. whether passive or active, the number and reliability of samples.

- In Poland the monitoring of swine vesicular disease in pigs is regulated by the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 4 April 2003 on the determination of disease entities, control measures, scope of examinations and principles of their financing (*Dz.U.* No. 62, It. 571).

Under § 3 of the regulation, blood from at least 10 pigs in each district is tested for swine vesicular disease a year.

- reporting of the disease is regulated by Art. 19 of the act of 24 April 1997 *on the control of animal infectious diseases, examination of animal for*

- 7) order that some persons must not have access to facilities in which animals stay,
- 8) order that animals must not be fed with specific feeding stuffs or be watered from certain reservoirs and water intakes,
- 9) determine specific places to which animals must not be introduced, through which they must not pass or from which they must not be taken away and to which meat, foodstuffs of animal origin and inedible animal products as well as animal carcasses and feeding stuffs must not be delivered and from which they must not be taken away,
- 10) order that animal carcasses be examined and be subject to post-mortem examination,
- 11) order treatment and other operations for animals,
- 12) order that animals must not be used for reproduction or that they be neutered,
- 13) determine principles of handling diseased animals and animals suspected of the disease, animal carcasses, meat, foodstuffs of animal origin and inedible animal products and feeding stuffs which are contaminated or are suspected of being contaminated,
- 14) order entities dealing with the slaughter of animals that sanitary slaughter be performed in exchange for the reimbursement of costs involved,
- 15) order that sanitary shooting of animals be performed in a specific area.

10. Abilities of diagnostic laboratories.

- diagnostic laboratory of the National Veterinary Research Institute – Foot-and-Mouth Disease Laboratory in Zduńska Wola is carrying out the tests for swine vesicular disease and is able to test the necessary number of samples;
- monitoring tests for swine vesicular disease are carried out by the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Laboratory in Zduńska Wola, which is a branch of the National Veterinary Research Institute in Pulawy;
- employees of the National Veterinary Research Institute undergo training courses within the relevant European Union reference laboratories.

11. Infrastructure and policy concerning infectious animal diseases and their control in the region, e.g. ability to act in case of emergencies.

Chief Veterinary Officer draws up National Contingency Plans for Control of Animal Infectious Diseases and strategies in the scope of control of diseases specified in Annex No. 1 to veterinary act, i.e. infectious animal diseases which are subject to compulsory notification and control. A National Contingency Plan for the Control of Swine Vesicular Disease has been drawn up. The plan is being updated and modified in keeping with the guidelines provided by EU experts.

slaughter and meat and Veterinary Inspection (Dz.U.99.66.752, Dz.U.01.29.320, Dz.U.01.129.1438), which provides that "if an animal is suspected of having contracted a infectious disease specified in Annex No. 1 to the act (animal infectious diseases that are subject to obligatory notification and control), its owner shall promptly notify the territorially competent Veterinary Inspection body or commune administrator (mayor, president) or the nearest animal clinic. The above obligation also applies to persons having contact with animals in connection with their official or professional duties. Additionally, veterinary surgeons are obligated to inform the owner of the animal about obligations determined in the act and supervise their fulfilment until the arrival of district veterinary officer or a person authorised by him/her.

The commune administrator (mayor, president) or the animal clinic shall immediately notify Veterinary Inspection of having received a report of a suspected case of an infectious disease that must be notified and controlled. Having received the notification, the district veterinary officer shall immediately take measures aimed at the confirmation or exclusion of the infectious disease. In the case of a justified suspicion or confirmation of an outbreak of infectious disease district veterinary officer shall implement measures specified in Art. 22 of the veterinary act, as appropriate.

Persons failing to report a suspected case of an infectious disease that is subject to compulsory notification and control shall be penalised with a fine, restriction of liberty or imprisonment.

- animals suspected of the disease are not subject to laboratory tests. Laboratory samples are collected from the animals to confirm or exclude the disease.
- the holding within the disease is suspected shall remain under quarantine until results of laboratory tests are obtained.
- in order to discover and eradicate infectious animal diseases, district veterinary officer may:
 - 1) order that diseased animals or animals suspected of a disease be kept separately, be guarded or watched,
 - 2) ban the issue of certificates of the place of origin of animals or animal health certificates,
 - 3) order that the diseased animals or animals suspected of the disease be slaughtered for sanitary reasons or killed,
 - 4) order that facilities be cleaned and disinfected, and that feeding stuffs, bedding, manure, tools and other objects which the diseased animals or animals suspected of the disease had contact with be disinfected, destroyed or removed in such a way as to make the danger of spread of the infectious disease impossible,
 - 5) order that persons who had a contact or might have had a contact with animals which contracted or are suspected of having contracted the infectious disease temporarily refrain from leaving the place in which the infectious disease is present,
 - 6) order that clothing and other belongings of persons who had a contact or might have had a contact with infected animals or suspected of being infected the disease be disinfected,